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AMENDMENTS

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In the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on Page 13, Line 17 and ending on Page 14, Line 13, and replace it with the following:

Under normal operating conditions with power supplied by the primary power source, all telephone lines (and their corresponding SLICs) are maintained in standby state, and the SLAC is simultaneously monitoring all lines so that hook transitions can be detected when a customer attempts to place a call. When a customer lifts the receiver from the telephone, the SLAC detects the off-hook condition in the corresponding line and communicates the off-hook condition to POTS control module 51. Upon receiving notification of the off-hook condition, POTS control module 51 places the line (and corresponding SLIC) in active mode. POTS control module 51 checks whether a network connection exists by checking a network connection status register on ATM control module 55. ATM control module 55 periodically and regularly communicates with the line interface chip (i.e., WAN DSP 81) to determine whether a network connection exists and updates its status register accordingly. If a network connection does not exist, POTS control module 51 instructs POTS DSP 45 to send a network disabled warning tone to the receiver, which notifies the customer that the network connection is down. If a network connection does exist, POTS control module 51 communicates (via ATM control module 55 and WAN interface 25) the off-hook condition to a network element (e.g., service manager) on network 30. With a routine call, the service manager responds (again via WAN interface 25 and ATM control module 55) with